

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119120
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 119120

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAO PAULO 01262 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BRASILIA RIO DE JANEIRO 18 MAY.

QUOTE: UNCLAS SAO PAULO 1262

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BR

SUBJECT: WIND BURN DAMAGE TO COFFEE TREES

1. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN BOTH MAJOR SAO PAULO PAPERS OF MAY 17TH, ICY WINDS OF 80 KILOMETERS PER HOUR STRUCK MUCH OF THE COFFEE AND WHEAT PRODUCING AREAS OF THE STATE OF PARANA ON 16 MAY. INITIAL REPORTS REACHING THE NEWSPAPER INDICATED THAT AS MANY AS 20 PER CENT OF THE COFFEE TREES IN SOME AREAS OF PARANA MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS PREDICTING CONTINUING COLD WEATHER FOR THE REGION.

2. CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL COFFEE TRADERS WERE LESS PESSIMISTIC THAN THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG THE TRADERS WAS THAT THERE HAS BEEN WIND BURN WHICH WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE 1976-1977 COFFEE CROP. THE CHILL FACTOR FROM THE HIGH WINDS APPARENTLY DID AFFECT THE UPPER LEAVES OF THE COFFEE TREES AND NEW COFFEE
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UNDER DEVELOPMENT. MOST OF THE TRADERS STRESSED THAT THE AREA AFFECTED WAS ONLY IN THE EXTREME NORTHERN PART OF PARANA WHERE ONLY 15-20 PERCENT OF THE TREES WERE DAMAGED TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER. ONE TRADER, HOWEVER, STATED HIS OPINION THAT AS MANY AS 20 PERCENT OF ALL COFFEE TREES IN THE STATE OF PARANA HAD BEEN AFFECTED. THIS POINT OF VIEW HAS BEEN ECHOED BY TWO RURAL LEADERS IN PARANA,

ALTHOUGH IT CONTRASTS WITH THE OFFICIAL PARANA STATE VIEW. (SEE
NEXT PARAGRAPH)

3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS CARRIED IN THE SAO PAULO NEWSPAPERS ON
18 MAY, PAOLO CARNEIRO RIBEIRO, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR
THE STATE OF PARANA, STATED THAT ANY DAMAGE TO THE COFFEE CROP IN
HIS STATE WAS "INSIGNIFICANT". THE SECRETARY BASED HIS COMMENT
ON A SURVEY TAKEN BY HIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST REPORTS
OF THE WIND BURN REACHED HIM.

4. ALL OF THE SANTOS TRADERS POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENT DAMAGE
OF THE WIND BURN WOULD NOT BE KNOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS YET. WE WILL
REPORT FURTHER. COFFEE EXPORTERS IN PORT OF SANTOS HAVE SUSPENDED
THEIR OPERATIONS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES. THERE IS FEAR,
HOWEVER, OF A FROST LATER TODAY.

5. EMBASSY CONCURS. CHAPIN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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